



26th May 2020

Kip Meek
Chair
Special Reference Group
Ofwat Price Determinations

Sent via waterdetermination2020@cma.gov.uk.

Re: Northumbrian Water Draft Determination

I am writing as Chief Executive of Essex Chambers of Commerce, the leading business organisation for the county. Our membership ranges from sole traders and small businesses through to national and international companies, including Essex and Suffolk Water.

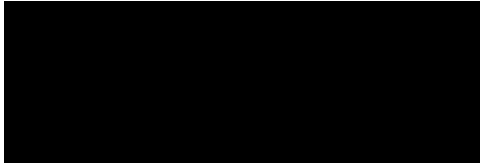
Essex is a fast growing county and both businesses and local authorities based within it have aspirations to see that growth continue in the future. There are ambitious plans for future housing growth and many businesses, including Essex Chambers' members, also have plans for expansion.

It is also one of the driest counties in the UK so it is important to ensure that there is sufficient resilience in its' water supply. Essex and Suffolk Water have already demonstrated their commitment to that in the past through its' successful delivery of increased capacity at Abberton Reservoir and now seeks to add to that through the construction on the Abberton to Hanningfield Transfer Main.

As an organisation representing businesses we strongly support this proposal and the extra resilience that it will help deliver for water supplies across the county, thereby giving added certainty to our members' future water needs. Failure to deliver this could have serious ramifications for future growth of the Essex economy and would be a missed opportunity for businesses and residents alike.

Throughout the development of their plans Essex and Suffolk Water have engaged regularly with businesses of all types and sizes to seek their views on proposed investment. We have actively worked with them to help facilitate this and seen the positive way in which they have listened to the views of businesses in determining their plan.

It is essential that there is sufficient resilience in future water supplies for our county and the proposals submitted by Essex and Suffolk Water will enable this to happen. We are happy to support them and we urge you to do likewise.



Denise Rossiter
Chief Executive
Essex Chambers of Commerce